

Message Text

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DEPT PASS SECRETARY FLASH

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UNSC XF

SUBJECT: SC DEBATE ON OCCUPIED TERRITORIES: ARAB CHANGES TO FRENCH
CONSENSUS STATEMENT

1. EGYPTIANS THIS MORNING GAVE US CHANGES TO SC PRESIDENT'S
DRAFT CONSENSUS STATEMENT, WHICH WERE AGREED IN ARAB GROUP
MEETING LAST NIGHT. REPORTED BELOW ARE BOTH THE FRENCH AND
ARAB TEXTS.

2. GOVERNOR SCRANTON EMPHASIZED TO EGYPTIAN AMB. MEGUID THAT
US HAD GREAT DIFFICULTY WITH CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF FRENCH TEXT,
PARTICULARLY "DEPLORING" ISRAELI ACTIVITIES AND ABSENCE OF ANY
REFERENCE TO RIGHTS OF ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY UNDER FOURTH
GENEVA CONVENTION. ARAB CHANGES, SCRANTON CONTINUED, WOULD MAKE
IT TOTALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO AGREE TO A CONSENSUS. MOREOVER,
AS MEGUID KNEW, WHAT HAD BEEN EARLIER DISCUSSED BETWEEN US AND
EGYPT WAS A SIMPLE, TWO POINT, CONSENSUS ON APPLICABILITY OF
FOURTH GENEVA CONVENTION AND ISRAEL'S OBLIGATION TO RESPECT
IT. SCRANTON WONDERED IF IT STILL MADE ANY SENSE TO TRY TO WORK
OUT ACCEPTABLE LANGUAGE WITH EGYPT IN LIGHT OF EVIDENT ARAB
DETERMINATION TO PRODUCE A TEXT WE COULD NOT ACCEPT.

3. MEGUID SAID HE BELIEVED IT WAS STILL WORTHWHILE FOR US AND
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EGYPTIAN DELEGATIONS TO GET TOGETHER SO THAT US COULD AT LEAST

EXPLAIN IN CONCRETE TERMS WHAT CHANGES IT REQUIRED. HE SAID THAT EGYPT WOULD REVERT TO ITS DRAFT RESOLUTION IF A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE TEXT COULD NOT BE NEGOTIATED. IT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY AGREED THAT US AND EGYPTIAN DELEGATIONS WOULD MEET AT 4 PM THIS AFTERNOON.

4. TEXT FOLLOWS OF SC PRESIDENT'S DRAFT CONSENSUS STATEMENT:

QUOTE FOLLOWING THE REQUEST SUBMITTED BY EGYPT ON 3 MAY 1976, THE SECURITY COUNCIL MET ON 4 MAY 1976 TO CONSIDER THE SITUATION IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES. AFTER CONSULTING ALL THE MEMBERS, THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL NOTED THAT THERE WAS THE FOLLOWING CONSENSUS AMONG THEM:

THE FOURTH GENEVA CONVENTION RELATIVE TO THE PROTECTION OF CIVILIAN PERSONS IN TIME OF WAR IS APPLICABLE TO THE ARAB TERRITORIES OCCUPIED BY ISRAEL SINCE 1967. THE SECURITY COUNCIL THEREFORE CALLS UPON THE OCCUPYING POWER TO COMPLY STRICTLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THAT CONVENTION AND TO REFRAIN FROM ANY MEASURES THAT WOULD VIOLATE THEM. IT ACCORDINGLY DEPLORES THE INITIATIVES TAKEN BY ISRAEL IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES, WHICH COULD ALTER THEIR DEMOGRAPHIC COMPOSITION OR GEOGRAPHICAL NATURE, AND PARTICULARLY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SETTLEMENTS. SUCH INITIATIVES, WHICH CANNOT PREJUDGE THE OUTCOME OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE, CONSTITUTE AN OBSTACLE TO THIS PEACE EFFORT. LASTLY, THE SECURITY COUNCIL EXPRESSED GRAVE ANXIETY OVER THE PRESENT SITUATION IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES AND THE INCIDENTS WHICH ARE STILL OCCURRING THERE; IT ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE FATE OF THE POPULATION OF THESE TERRITORIES.

5. TEXT FOLLOWS OF SC PRESIDENT'S DRAFT CONSENSUS STATEMENT AS AMENDED BY ARAB GROUP:

BEGIN QUOTE FOLLOWING THE REQUEST SUBMITTED BY EGYPT ON 3 MAY 1976, THE SECURITY COUNCIL MET ON 4 MAY 1976 TO CONSIDER THE SITUATION IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES. AFTER CONSULTING ALL THE MEMBERS, THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL NOTED THAT THERE WAS THE FOLLOWING CONSENSUS AMONG THEM:

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THE SECURITY COUNCIL EXPRESSED ITS GRAVE ANXIETY OVER THE PRESENT SITUATION IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES AND IT ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE FATE OF THE POPULATION OF THOSE TERRITORIES.

THE SECURITY COUNCIL REAFFIRMED THAT THE FOURTH GENEVA CONVENTION RELATIVE TO THE PROTECTION OF CIVILIAN PERSONS IN TIME OF WAR IS APPLICABLE TO THE ARAB TERRITORIES OCCUPIED

BY ISRAEL. THE SECURITY COUNCIL CALLS UPON THE OCCUPYING POWER TO COMPLY STRICTLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THAT CONVENTION AND TO REFRAIN FROM AND TO RESCIND ALL MEASURES IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AGAINST THEIR INHABITANTS THAT WOULD VIOLATE THOSE PROVISIONS.

THE SECURITY COUNCIL ACCORDINGLY DEPLORES THE REPRESSIVE MEASURES TAKEN BY THE OCCUPYING POWER AGAINST THE INHABITANTS AND DEPLORES THE POLICY OF ISRAEL WHICH AIMS AT ALTERING THE DEMOGRAPHIC COMPOSITION AND GEOGRAPHICAL NATURE OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND PARTICULARLY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SETTLEMENTS.

SUCH MEASURES HAVE NO VALIDITY, CANNOT PREJUDGE THE OUTCOME OF THE SEARCH FOR PEACE AND CONSTITUTE AN OBSTACLE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE. END QUOTE

6. SC PRESIDENT HAS AGREED TO DELAY FURTHER SC MEETING OR CONSULTATIONS AS LONG AS POSSIBLE IN LIGHT OF ONGOING US-EGYPTIAN DISCUSSIONS. HE BELIEVES IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO PUT OFF CONVOKING SC TO MONDAY AFTERNOON OR POSSIBLY TUESDAY, BUT WARNS THAT ARABS ARE PRESSING FOR EARLY SC CONSIDERATION OF THEIR REVISIONS.
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